

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs**

Emergency Travel Procedures

The Consular Section makes every effort to assign the earliest possible appointment time(s) for bona fide cases of emergency travel. Please note that all travelers need to demonstrate their eligibility to receive a U.S. visa, and that it is the traveler's responsibility to make timely arrangements.

All applicants for emergency travel are required to use the **Electronic Visa Application Form (DS-156)**. Handwritten or typed applications will not be accepted.

Applicants who need to travel urgently or immediately for a medical, family, or other emergency must call the Consular Section in order to ask for an expedited appointment.

1. Applicants must explain their reasons for emergency travel to staff of the Consular Section.
2. Applicants will be asked to submit appropriate documentary evidence, by fax or e-mail, in support of the telephone request.
3. Based on the circumstances and the documentation submitted, Consular Officers will decide whether and how to expedite visa processing, i.e. schedule an urgent appointment, on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure timely travel in emergency cases.

Accompanying applicants (e.g. a parent applying to travel with a child) will be treated on the same expedited basis. Accompanying applicants will of course need to demonstrate their eligibility to receive a U.S. visa.

Click here for more information on **[Visa Application Procedures](#)**.